

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of September 8, 2004 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

In the Amendment:

Claim 2 is amended to specify that connection points are located on three "sides" of the screen, rather than three "edges" as presently recited;

Claim 3 is amended to recite that two of the rectangular screen's sides are longer than the other two sides, with the screen's folding region extending between the mid points of the screen's longer sides;

Claim 4 is amended in accordance with above amended claims 2 and 3; and

Claims 1, 5 and 6 remain unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Claim Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described claim amendment overcomes the Examiner's objections to claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for at least the following reasons.

Claim 3 has been amended to specify that the rectangular screen has adjacent sides of unequal length, as clearly illustrated, for example, in Fig. 3 of the present application. This therefore provides proper antecedent for the recitations of the screen having "longer" and "shorter" sides in amended claims 3 and 4.

The amendment to claim 2, from which claims 3 and 4 depend, has been made to provide consistency in the claims with respect to the screen's "sides".

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 2 to 6 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Phillipps (USP 6,107,988) cited by the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, a flexible display assembly having a flexible display screen is provided. The flexible display screen is able to fold about a region between two PCBs which are connected to the screen at a plurality of connection points. In order to ensure that the PCBs are not strained through this folding of the screen, flexible connectors are provided between the connection points about the folding region and the corresponding edges of the PCBs so that those PCB edges can move relative to the connection points (see page 4, lines 8-33 of the present specification). This arrangement of the present invention is clearly claimed in pending independent claim 1.

As discussed by the Examiner, Phillipps discloses in one embodiment an apparatus in which a flexible display panel 37 is mounted to two separate body portions 31,32 and foldable about a strap hinge 33. However, as correctly identified by the Examiner, there is

no disclosure in this embodiment as to connections between PCBs and connection points on the display panel 37.

In an attempt to make up for this deficiency in Phillipps, the Examiner refers to the disclosure of Phillipps with respect to the other embodiments in which two separate LCDs are arranged side-by-side on respective body portions coupled via a hinge so as to be pivotal with respect to one another, which the Examiner asserts discloses a "flexible" display. The applicant respectfully disagrees that it would not have been obvious to use two separate display screens in place of a single flexible display screen as the Examiner contends, since one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider a pivoting dual display arrangement as being a flexible display in which a single display screen is foldable.

Even if this was done, there is no disclosure in Phillipps regarding these other embodiments as to connections between PCBs and connection points on the display screens. As such, there is no teaching or suggestion in Phillipps to provide flexible connectors between the connection points and the PCBs so that the PCB edges can move relative to the connection points, as clearly recited in independent claim 1.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejection

The applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 would not have been obvious over claims 1-6 of USP 6,688,528, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 is directed to a flexible display assembly having a flexible display screen able to fold about a region between two PCBs which are connected to the screen about this region at a plurality of connection points via flexible connectors. Dependent claims 2 to 4 are directed to defining the shape of the display screen as being rectangular and the specific relationship between the connection points and the PCBs with the rectangular screen, and dependent claims 5 and 6 are directed to defining the screen type.

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contention, independent claim 1 is not directed to "rectangular" screens, as this limitation is only introduced at dependent claim 2.

On the other hand, independent claim 1 of USP 6,688,528 is directed to a flexible display assembly in which a flexible display screen is connected with PCBs located at the rear of the screen at connection points of the screen via flexible connectors of sufficient length to accommodate closing of the assembly and in which the screen and PCB edges define a triangle. Dependent claims 2 to 4 are directed to defining the configuration of the triangles provided by the screen and PCB edges and the termination of the flexible connectors, and dependent claims 5 and 6 are directed to defining the screen type.

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contention, the claims of USP 6,688,528 are not directed to "triangular" screens, but to a relationship between the screen and PCB edges which defines a triangle.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that there is criticality disclosed other than the design choice for the shape of the screens, since the presently claimed invention concerns the manner of connection so as to reduce strain on the PCBs when the display screen is folded whereas the claims of USP 6,688,528 concern the configuration of the PCBs with respect to the screen.

Notwithstanding the above remarks, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,688,528 being commonly owned by the applicant.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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